

**Minorities in the Profession Section
of the New Jersey State Bar Association**

2022

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

CELEBRATION

**Thursday, Feb. 24 | 6–8:30 p.m.
New Jersey Law Center | FREE event**

Keynote Address by
Raymond M. Brown, Esq.

Music by
Trenton H.S. Orchestra

Art Exhibit
Trivia Contest
Award Presentations

NJSBA

2022 MIPS Black History Month Essay & Trivia Contest

Official Contest Rules

ELIGIBILITY:

This contest is open to all New Jersey high school students (grades 9 - 12). There is no entry fee for this contest. All entries must be written in English and [submitted online](#) as a PDF file or Microsoft Word document. (See [Essay Format](#))

HOW TO ENTER:

Step 1: Read the [2022 Essay Topic](#)

Step 2: Write a 1500-word essay answering these questions:

- What is the cultural relevance of today's Hip Hop music?
- Are the lyrics of artists like Lil Baby, Pop Smoke and Megan Thee Stallion a trivial source of entertainment, a reflection of reality or something else? And does it matter?

Step 3: Students must register and [submit your essay](#) online at [njsba.com](#) as a PDF or Word document (See [Essay Format](#)). Only one submission is allowed per student.

ESSAY SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND DETAILS:

All essays must be received by midnight **January 20**.

- All submissions become the property of the New Jersey State Bar Association.
- The student must complete the official online entry form, which includes a stipulation that the essay is the student's original work and has not been published elsewhere.
- Entries must be submitted by the student through the official Essay Contest Submission website. ([Click here to submit an essay.](#))
- Duplicate entries are not allowed.
- Each submission will be confirmed by e-mail using the address supplied.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES:

January 20 Essay submission deadline

February 14 Essay finalists and runners-up will be notified

February 18 Selected students must confirm attendance for Award Reception and Trivia Contest

[2022 MIPS Black History Month Celebration](#)

Thurs., February 24

6 - 8:30 p.m.

This event will be presented by the NJSBA Minorities in the Profession Section at the New Jersey Law Center, featuring winners of our annual essay competition facing off in a trivia contest for cash prizes. Additional program features include music by the Trenton High School Orchestra, a keynote speaker, and an art show. [Click here](#) to register for this event.

ESSAY FORMAT

All Essays will be judged without knowledge of the identity of the author.

- The essay must be written in English.
- The title of the essay should appear at the top of page one; further pages should be numbered on the top right; the **student's name must not appear on the essay.**
- The essay must be in MLA format (double-spaced in a 12-point font, with one-inch margins on all sides of each page).
- The essay must be no more than 3 pages in length (or 1500 words), not including the Works Cited page.
- Essay must be saved as a Word Document or PDF file.
- Google Docs will not be accepted. *

***Google Docs should be saved as a Word or PDF document prior to submission. By choosing File/Download and selecting PDF Document or Microsoft Word.**

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Essays will be reviewed anonymously by a select panel of judges for the NJSBA Minorities in the Profession Section, based on the following criteria:

- Point of view (clearly stated and well-supported)
- Quality of writing (spelling, grammar, punctuation)
- Creativity and meaningful response (use of critical and creative thinking)
- Adherence to specific limitations (3 pages or 1500 words or less)

QUALIFYING ESSAY / WINNER NOTIFICATIONS:

Five essay finalists and three runners-up will be notified by email and/or phone on **February 14.**

TRIVIA CONTEST

Essay finalists are invited to compete in a Trivia Contest at the New Jersey Law Center on February 24 for a chance to win up to \$500. Finalists who cannot participate in the Trivia Contest will be replaced by a runner-up and awarded a \$100 prize for honorable mention.

First, second and third runners-up are invited to attend the Trivia Contest and may be eligible to compete in the Trivia Contest if any essay finalist is unable to compete. The first runner-up will have priority, followed by the second runner-up and the third runner-up. If a runner-up is asked to compete in the Trivia Contest in place of a finalist, that runner-up will be eligible to win up to \$500. (See [Prizes](#))

STUDENT CONFIRMATION DEADLINE FOR TRIVIA CONTEST

All essay finalists and runners-up must confirm their attendance and availability to compete in the Trivia Contest by **February 18** or within 7 days of notification.

AWARD RECEPTION

All essay finalists and runners-up are invited to attend the 2022 MIPS Black History Month Award Reception on **February 24** at 6 p.m. An invitation will be sent to the email address provided with the student's essay submission.

PRIZES:

A total of \$1500 in cash prizes will be awarded to eight students as follows:

Trivia Contest Awards

1st Place \$500

2nd Place \$300

3rd Place \$200

Honorable Mentions (Unranked Essay Winners/Runners-up)

Unranked trivia contestants and qualifying essay winners/runners-up will be awarded \$100 as honorable mentions. These include essay finalists and runners-up who could not compete or did not win a top prize in the Trivia Contest.

2022 Essay Topic

Lil Baby's "My Turn" album and Pop Smoke's album, "Shoot for the Stars Aim for the Moon", finished second and third for the top selling albums of 2020 and Megan Thee Stallion won BET's Hip Hop Artist of the year!

According to *Rolling Stone*, of the 200 most popular tracks of 2020, Hip Hop music accounted for nearly half.

- What is the cultural relevance of today's Hip Hop music?
- Are the lyrics of artists like Lil Baby, Pop Smoke and Megan Thee Stallion a trivial source of entertainment, a reflection of reality or something else? And does it matter?
- Discuss the relationship, if any, between Hip Hop lyrics and the behavior of young adults.
- Finally, consider the implications of criminal court cases like the case involving Hip Hop Artist, Tekashi69.